Comprehensive Ecosystem-Based Amendment 2 (CE-BA2) 2011
Joshua Giordano-Silliman

I support all actions of CE-BA2 except those mentioned below.

Under Action 4: Modify Management of South Carolina's Special Management Zones, I support Alternative 1 until the adverse effects of commercial harvesting can be quantified and sworn to accurate as it concerns SC SMZz. South Carolina SMZz are older than the saltwater fishing license. They were initially funded through state appropriations and federal money. It appears at this time only speculation constitutes the need for action. Banning commerical spearfishing or fishing may negatively affect the potential for commercial invasive species removal associated with snapper grouper fishing within the EEZ (Lionfish removal). Commercially harvested fish from SC SMZs through spear fishing is one of the most efficient fishing practices. Discard mortality is low to none based on the experience of the fisherperson. The fish harvested from SC SMZs is directed to consumer stakeholders for consumption. Individuals are receiving access to their resource through commercially spear fish harvested means. Reducing the production capability of commercial spear and fishing within SC SMZs will negatively impact economically the state of South Carolina. I asked the council to consider Alternative 1 until actual impact information is received not only from the biological aspects but the economic aspects as well.

Under Action 9: Amend the Fishery Management Plan for Pelagic Sargassum Habitat to designate EFH-HAPCS. There is concerns to the long term meaning and effects of Alternative 2 as it relates to fishing recreational and commercially. Even though the current intention of this council is not to implement any measures to curtail fishing, without defining the language of the impact or potential impact creates concern. At this time I support Alternative 1 until the potential impacts and effects as it concerns fishing are identified and reported.